**PATENT** 

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## **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments of the invention provide an expert analysis method for analyzing a network. The method includes capturing at least one bidirectional data trace from the network, determining a network topology, analyzing protocols in conversations between initiators and targets to determine if the protocols are valid using the determined network topology and known protocol standards, and displaying at least one of errors or warnings determined in the protocol and metrics calculated from the analysis of the protocols to a user.

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